

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD

DEADLY CLASS™



1988
#24



The Story So Far...

Saya Kuroki barely had time to wash the blood of her former ward and boyfriend Marcus, whom she ran through with her heirloom katana during the Kings Dominion Freshman Finals, off her hands before a new crop of students are enrolled in the school, eager to begin their training to become assassins.

Tasked by Headmaster Lin to take a new ward under her wing, Saya reluctantly begins mentoring Zenzele, a freshman from war-torn Ethiopia. Like Marcus before her, Zenzele is a “rat”, an unaffiliated student who is fated to serve as fodder for her classmates during the next Freshman Finals...

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STUDENT COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ROOM

THIS *SPINELESS* LUMP LETS HIS *DESPICABLE* PIG OF A GIRLFRIEND LEAD HIM BY THE NOSE TO DO WHATEVER SHORTSIGHTED, SELFISH *BULLSHIT* SHE FEELS LIKE, AND WE'RE JUST EXPECTED TO WHAT? *FALL IN LINE?*

WHILE WE HAVE LEADER MEETINGS AND TALK ABOUT SHIT THAT WILL *NEVER* HAPPEN, SHE'S FILLED THE POWER VACUUMS IN THE SOTO VATO, THE ITALIANS, AND THE FINAL WORLD ORDER WITH *HER* FRIENDS.

TELL US, SHABNAM, ARE WE SUPPOSED TO LET THE TROLL RUN THE SCHOOL BECAUSE SHE'LL STOMACH TOUCHING YOUR DICK?

UGH. I DIDN'T EXPECT THIS KIND OF *MISOGYNY* FROM YOU, STEPHEN.



STOP THAT.

STOP USING REAL ISSUES AS ARMOR FOR YOUR *BLATANT* SELF-INTEREST.

SERIOUSLY, TELL US--*HOW* DID YOU GET HERE--*WHAT* DID YOU *DO* TO *EARN* THIS?



SAT BEHIND A DESK EATING PIZZA ROLLS WHILE WE WENT OUT AND DID *UGLY, HARD* WORK.

I... I'M AFRAID I AGREE... I DIDN'T MAKE A DEAL WITH GROGDA.



NICE PETRA.

BOTTOM LINE IS *NONE* OF US AGREED TO WORK WITH YOU.

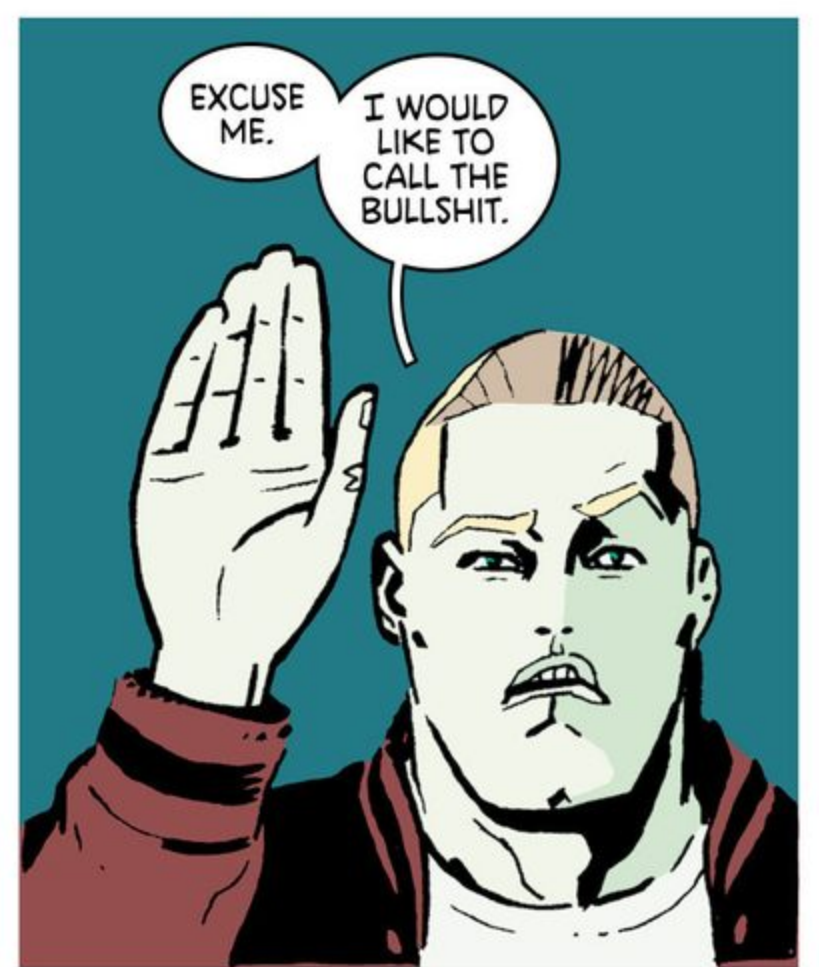
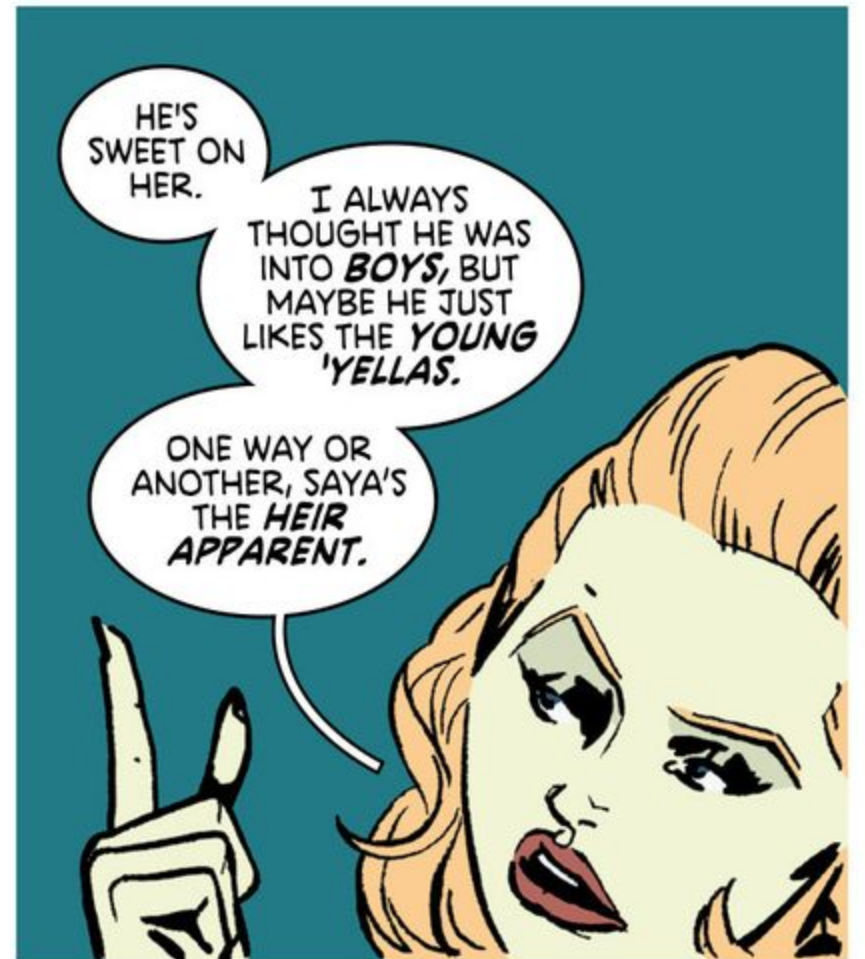
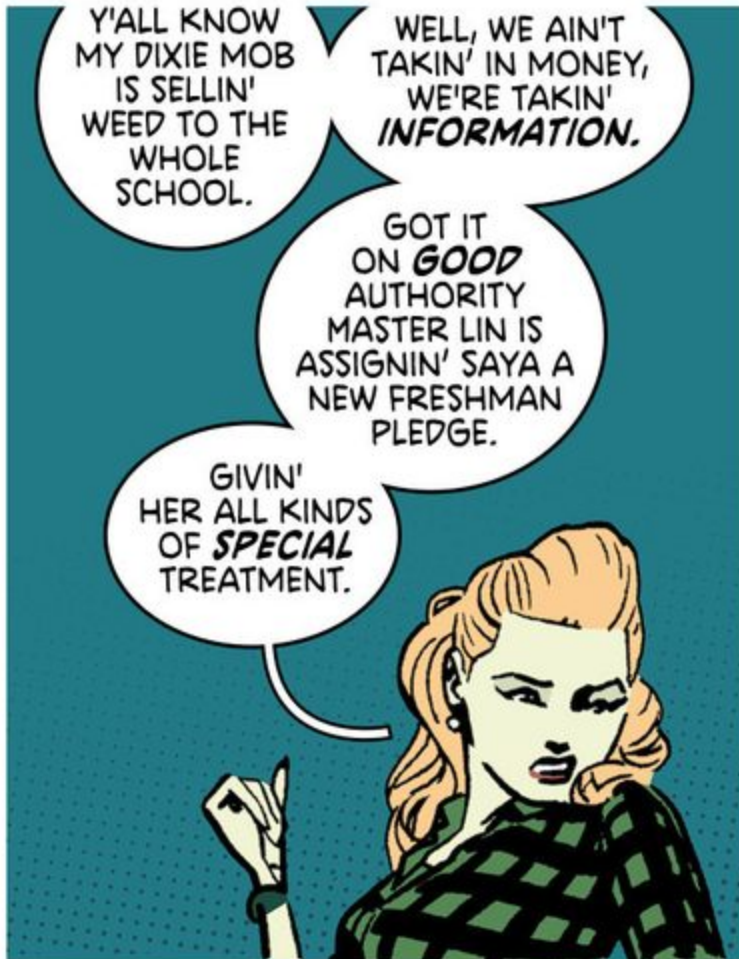


NONE OF US *WANT* TO WORK WITH YOU.

WE THINK YOU SHOULD *FUCK OFF* OUT OF THE LEADER MEETINGS.









"...YOU CAN COP A FEEL
WHEN THAT BITCH IS DEAD."

FOR THOSE
OF US NOT
FORTUNATE
ENOUGH TO BE BORN
SOCIOPATHS, WE
MUST LEARN TO
PROCESS OUR KILLS
IN A FASHION THAT
SLOWLY TURNS US
INTO ONE.

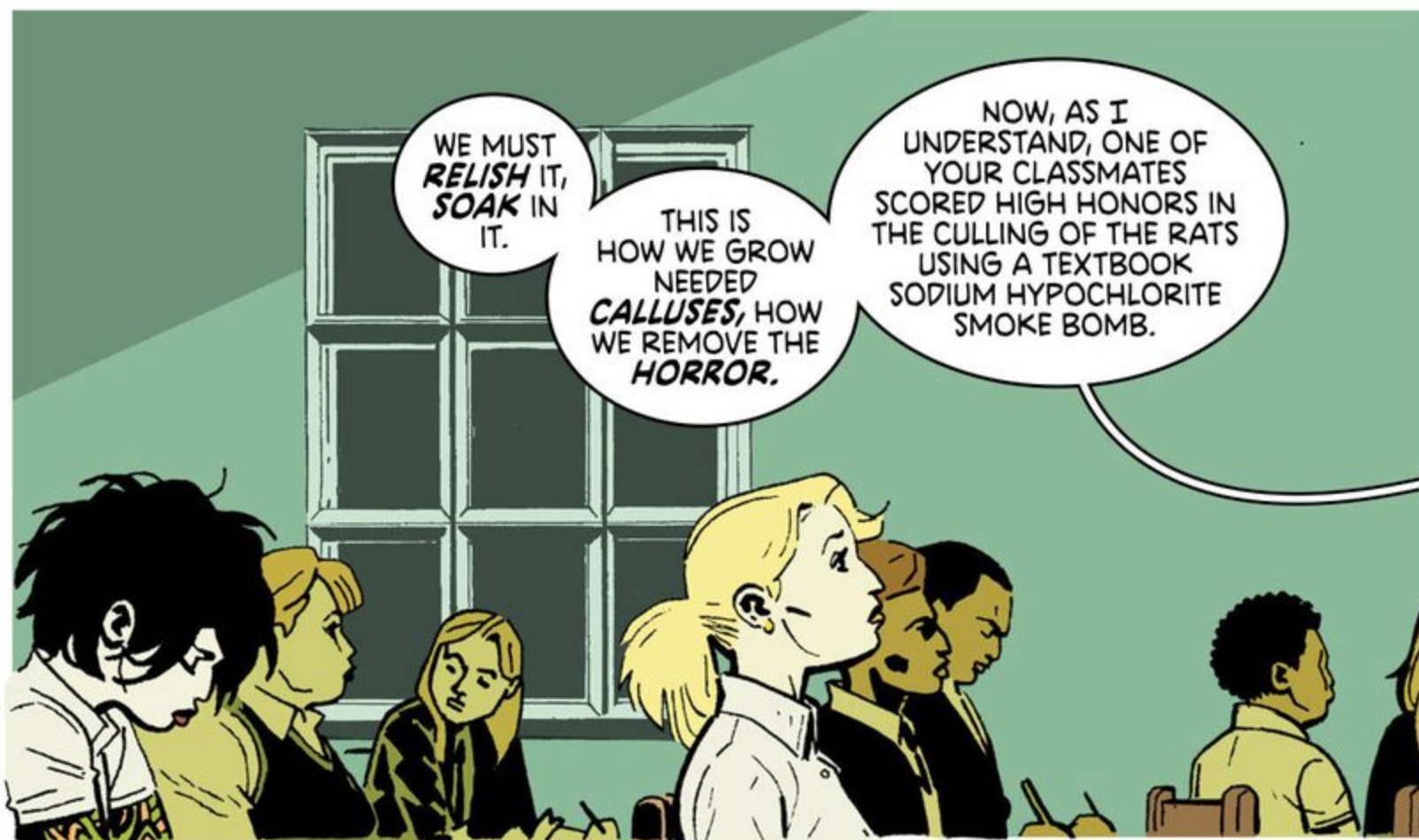
TRADITIONALLY
WE ARE TAUGHT TO
AVOID THINKING OF
DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES,
BUT IN THE CASE OF
KILLING SOMEONE WE
KNOW, OR A
PARTICULARLY GRUESOME
EXECUTION, IT IS **BETTER**
TO HOLD THE
MEMORY.



WE MUST
RELISH IT,
SOAK IN
IT.

THIS IS
HOW WE GROW
NEEDED
CALLUSES, HOW
WE REMOVE THE
HORROR.

NOW, AS I
UNDERSTAND, ONE OF
YOUR CLASSMATES
SCORED HIGH HONORS IN
THE CULLING OF THE RATS
USING A TEXTBOOK
SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE
SMOKE BOMB.



PETRA,
WOULD YOU
PLEASE COME UP
AND DETAIL TO
THE CLASS THE
EVENTS THAT LED
TO YOUR
KILL?

OH.

O-O-KAY...

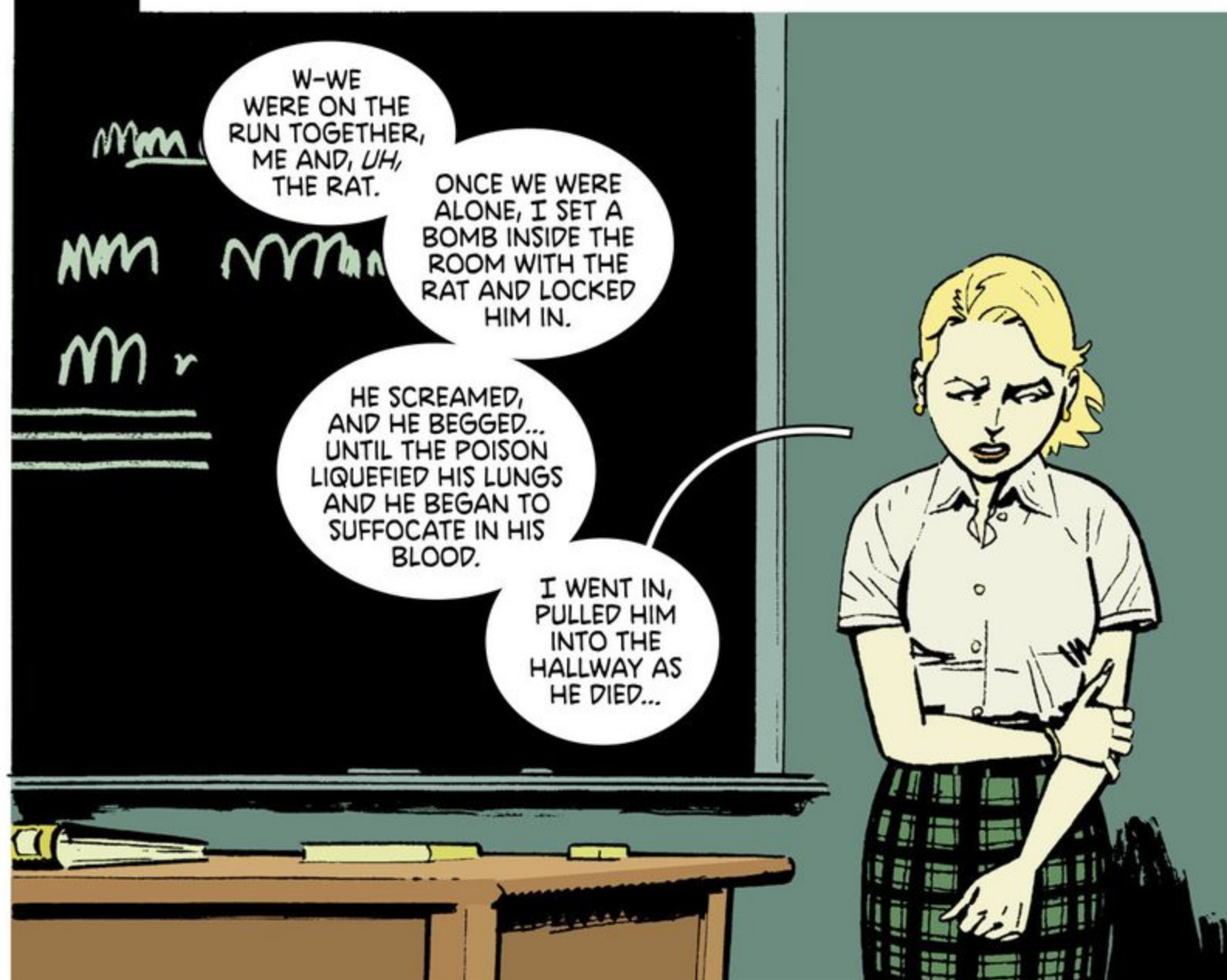


W-WE
WERE ON THE
RUN TOGETHER,
ME AND, UH,
THE RAT.

ONCE WE WERE
ALONE, I SET A
BOMB INSIDE THE
ROOM WITH THE
RAT AND LOCKED
HIM IN.

HE SCREAMED,
AND HE BEGGED...
UNTIL THE POISON
LIQUEFIED HIS LUNGS
AND HE BEGAN TO
SUFFOCATE IN HIS
BLOOD.

I WENT IN,
PULLED HIM
INTO THE
HALLWAY AS
HE DIED...

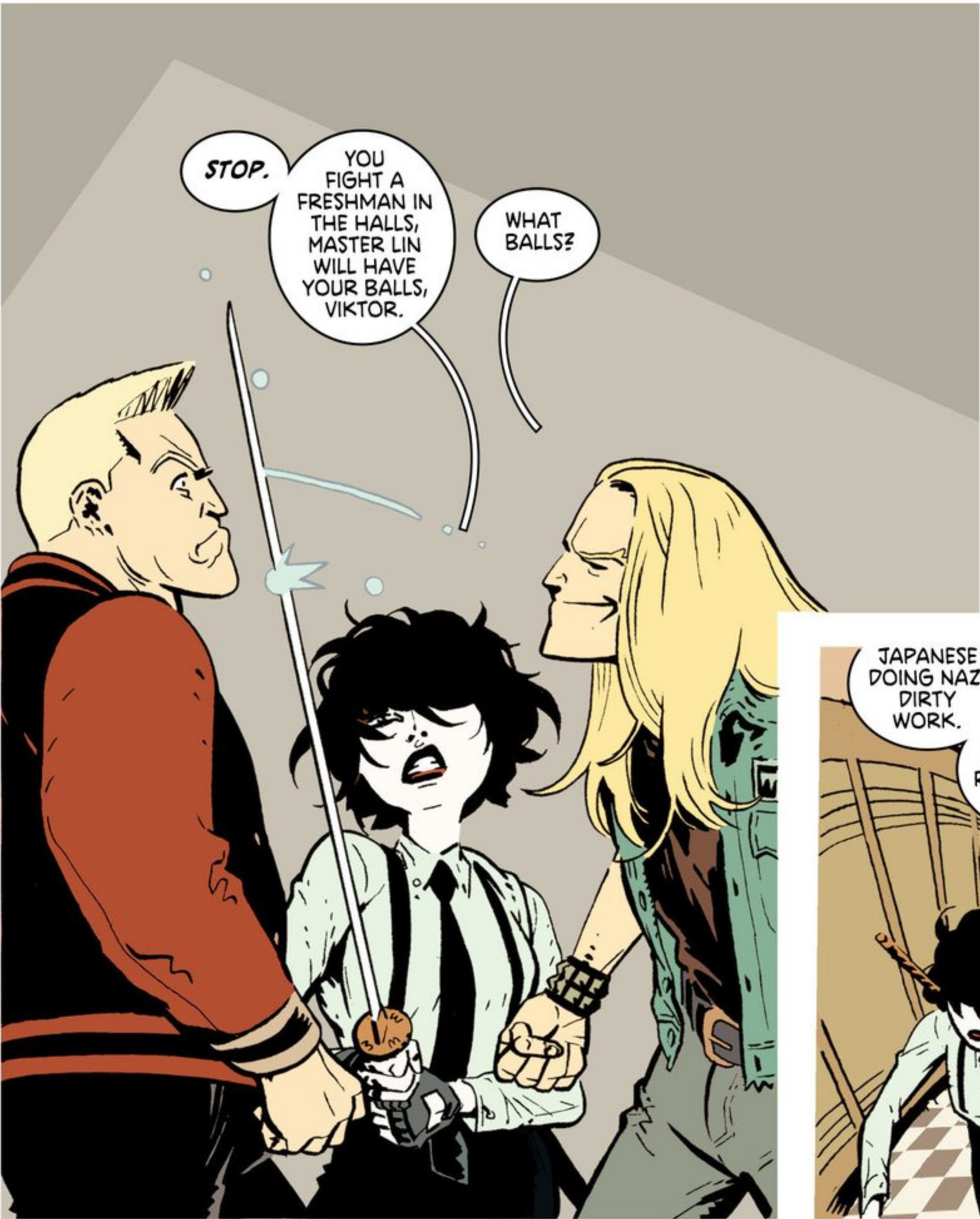


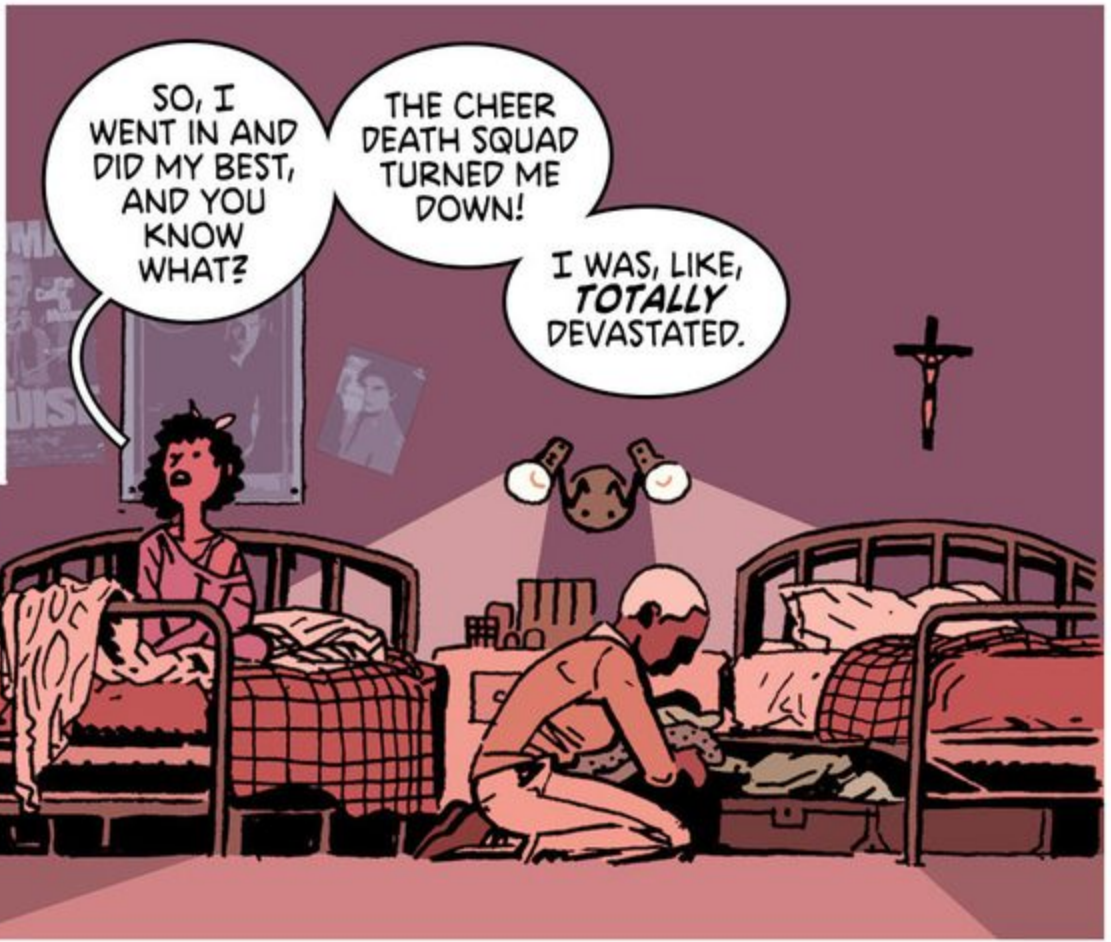
...AND I
WATCHED THE
LIFE LEAVING
HIS EYES.











OCT 30TH, 1988

DEAR MOTHER. DEAR FATHER.

I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T WRITTEN IN THE LAST WEEK. THE WORKLOAD IS QUITE ARDUOUS.

MUCH IS AS YOU SUSPECTED HERE IN AMERICA.

THEIR ASSUMPTIONS OF ME ARE ALL BASED ON MISINFORMATION FROM TELEVISION AND THE MOVIES.



THE AMERICAN STUDENTS KNOW NOTHING OF THE REST OF THE WORLD, AND EVEN LESS OF AFRICA.

I HAVE NEVER FELT MORE HOMESICK OR DISPLACED. I FIGHT THE URGE TO RETURN TO YOU EVERY HOUR, BUT I THEN REMEMBER WHAT IS AT STAKE, AND WHY I MUST STAY.



I WISH I COULD REPORT HIGH MARKS, BUT IN MANY CLASSES, I AM FAILING. THE INSTRUCTORS THINK I AM WEAK. BASED ON MY PERFORMANCE I UNDERSTAND WHY.

I CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE RAGE THAT DROVE ME THAT DARK NIGHT. I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER HOW I CALLED ON IT.

THEN I REMEMBER WHAT YOU'RE ENDURING.



GIVEN YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO HOLD ON IN SUCH DANGER, I CAN SURELY FIND THE STRENGTH TO ACHIEVE WHAT I MUST IN THIS PLACE.

BUT IT IS HARDER THAN I IMAGINED.



THE CLASS I AM HAVING THE MOST TROUBLE WITH IS NINJA STEALTH. IF I AM TO BE ANY USE TO YOU, I RECOGNIZE I SHOULD REMEDY THIS.

OUR INSTRUCTOR IS UNIMPRESSED WITH MY ATTEMPTS. HE INSULTS ME AND ASKS WHY I AM HERE. OF COURSE, I CANNOT TELL HIM THE TRUTH OF THINGS.

HE CLEARLY DOESN'T LIKE ME, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANYBODY LIKES ANYONE ELSE IN THIS PLACE.





THEY ARE ALL SO AMBITIOUS. SO EAGER TO GET RID OF ANYONE FEEDING FROM THE SAME TROUGH.

THE COMPETITION NEVER CEASES. EVERYONE SEEMS DRIVEN BY NEEDS INSTILLED IN THEM BY THEIR PARENTS OR SOMETHING ELSE.

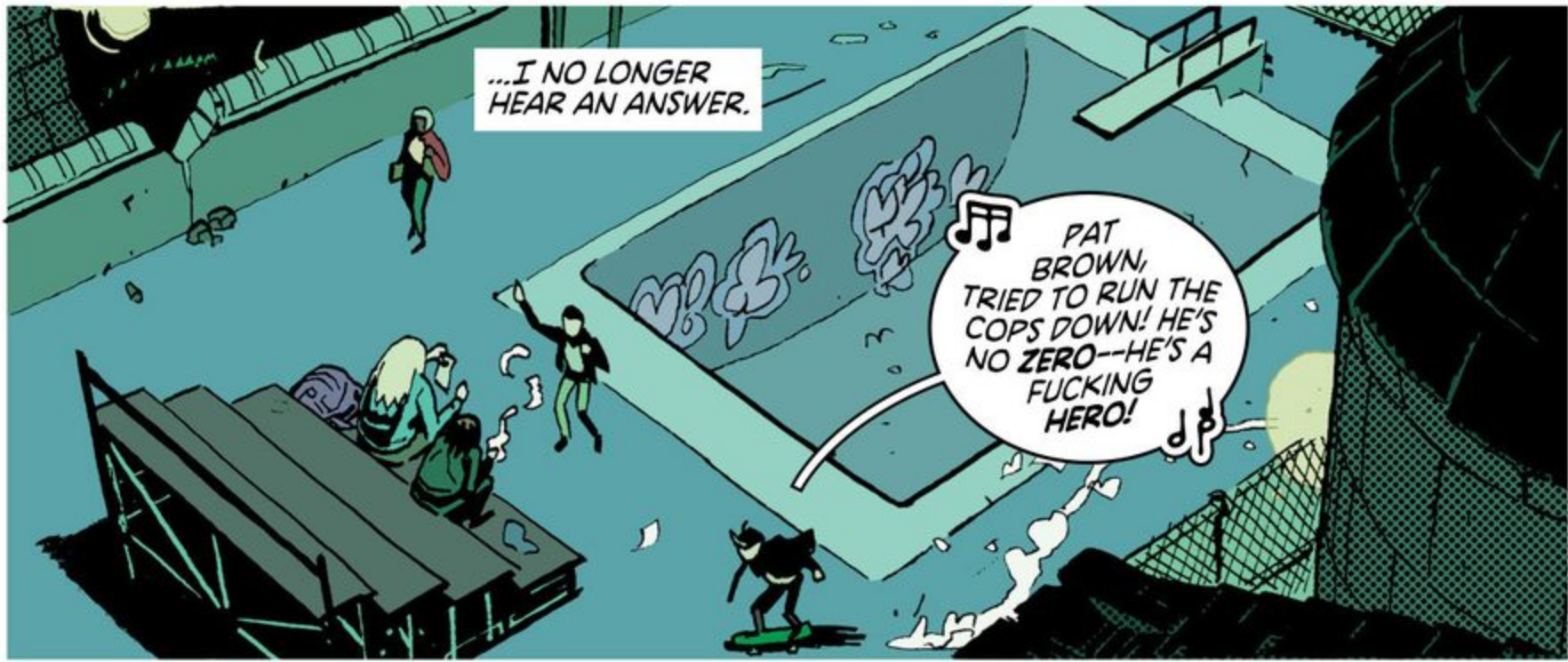
THEY CHASE SUCCESS AT ANY COST.



MY PROPAGANDA INSTRUCTOR HAS CONFIRMED EVERYTHING PAPA EVER SAID ABOUT GOVERNMENTS.

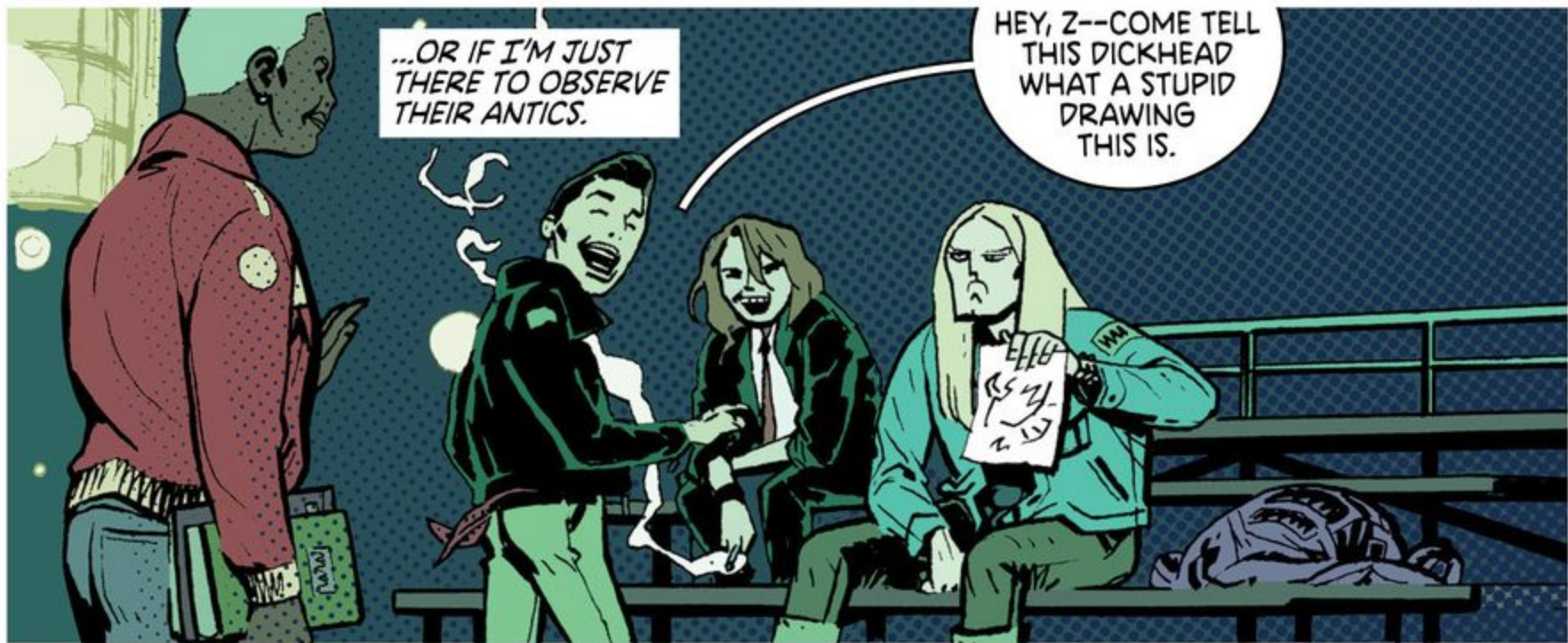
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS MOROSE AND UNNECESSARILY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MANKIND, BUT PERHAPS HE WAS RIGHT. PERHAPS WE ARE CRUEL AND SELFISH CREATURES--PERHAPS THE DEVIL IS WINNING.

I PRAY FOR UNDERSTANDING HOW I CAN SERVE GOD WHILE LEARNING SUCH AN EVIL TRADE...



I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU THAT I HAVE MADE FRIENDS, BUT THAT IS NOT A WORD THAT CAN BE APPLIED TO ANY OF THE PEOPLE I'VE MET.

I WOULD CALL THEM "ACQUAINTANCES OF CONVENIENCE." I WONDER WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME. HOW THEY MISINTERPRET MY INTENTIONS, IF THEY CONSIDER ME AT ALL...



QUAN IS SLICK, FLIRTATIOUS AND CHARMING, BUT HE'S ALWAYS COWERING BEHIND HUMOR.

HIS MOTHER WAS A US MEDIC DURING THE WAR, HIS FATHER A VIETNAMESE SOLDIER SHE SAVED AND BECAME PREGNANT BY. NOT ABLE TO FACE THE SOCIAL STIGMA, SHE LEFT QUAN WITH HIS DAD IN CAMBODIA.

QUAN'S OBSESSED WITH AMERICAN GREASER CULTURE. I THINK HE FEELS ABANDONED AND ATTACHES TO HIS MOTHER'S WORLD TO BECOME THE CHILD SHE WANTED.



THERE IS AN EAST GERMAN BOY NAMED HELMUT, A LEGACY SENT FROM THE STASI. HE CARRIES THE WEIGHT OF HIS COUNTRY'S HISTORY.

HE IMMERSSES HIMSELF IN FANTASY GAMES, WHICH HE CONTROLS. CONTROL ISN'T SOMETHING HE SEEMS TO HAVE HAD MUCH OF BACK HOME.

I HAVE TRIED TO WARN HIM AGAINST HIS SINFUL DEVIL MUSIC, BUT HE HAS BEEN CONSUMED BY IT.

THEN THERE IS THE NATIVE AMERICAN, TOSAHWI. PERHAPS THE LEAST LIKABLE PERSON I'VE MET. SELF-RIGHTEOUS AND PIOUS DON'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE HIM.

HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO MAKES FUN OF PEOPLE AT A DANCE. WHAT A JOKE IT ALL IS, HOW BENEATH HIM IT IS. BUT WHAT EVERYONE ELSE HEARS IS CLEAR:



HIS NAME MEANS "WHITE KNIFE," AND HE IS DESCENDED FROM COMANCHE WARRIORS.

HE IS THE ANGRIEST PERSON I HAVE EVER MET, AND OF ALL THE STUDENTS HERE I BELIEVE HE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS.

HE SEEMS TO HATE EVERYTHING EXCEPT SKATEBOARDING...



...AND BELITTLING OTHERS.

HE HANGS OUT WITH US ALMOST BY DEFAULT. HE HAS NO ONE ELSE, SO HE BUZZES IN OUR PERIPHERY.

HE'S FROM A RESERVATION IN NORTHERN TEXAS WHERE HIS FATHER IS THE CHIEF, BUT APPARENTLY, HE IS A WEAK MAN, LETTING THE RESERVATION FALL APART.



AMERICAN SHERIFFS SELL DRUGS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WOMEN THERE.

AND I CAN SEE THAT TOSAHWI HAS SOMETHING BACK HOME TO SET RIGHT, A TRUE INJUSTICE. STILL, NO ONE LIKES HIM.



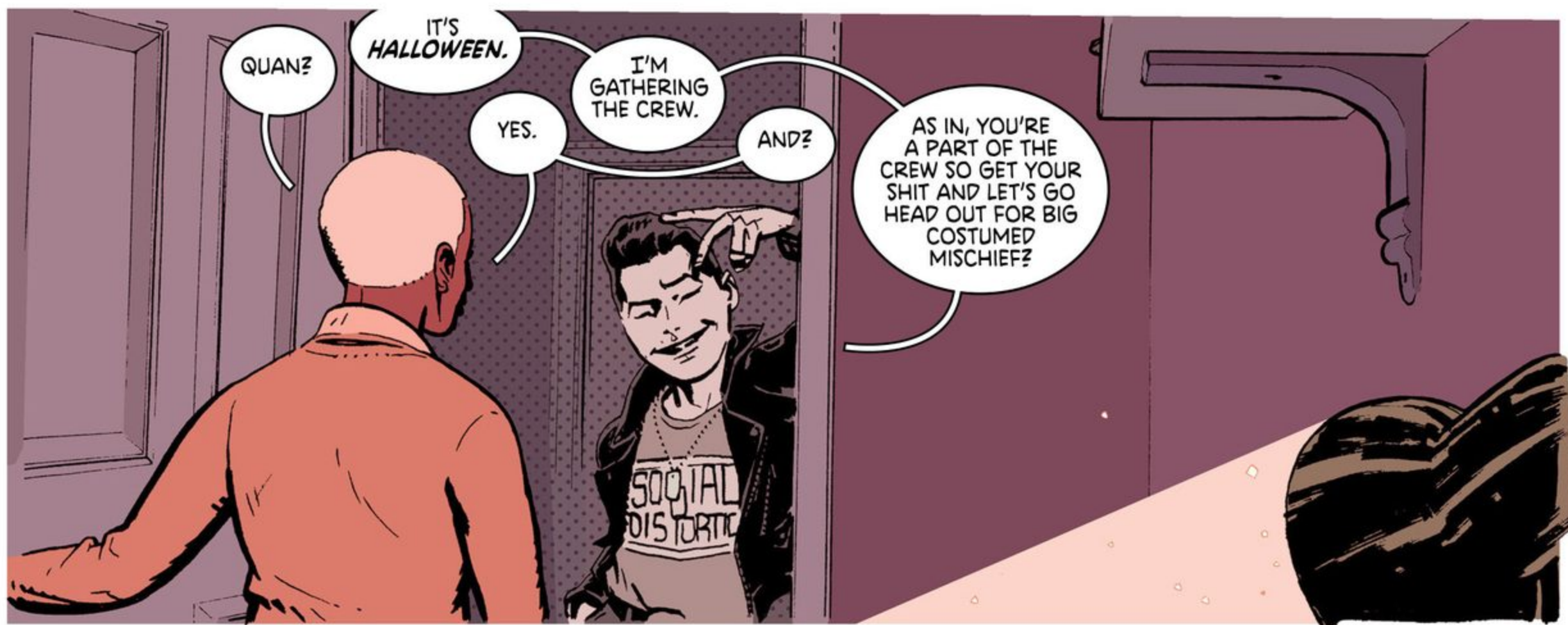
AS FOR ME, I'M SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE BUT ALWAYS FEEL ALONE.

MAMA, I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO SMELL YOUR BOBOTIE SIMMERING, TO SIT WITH FATHER AND HEAR HIS TALL STORIES.

I PROMISE YOU BOTH THAT EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT, AND AS SOON AS I HAVE LEARNED ALL I NEED...

...WE WILL BE SAFE AND TOGETHER AGAIN.





QUAN?

IT'S HALLOWEEN.

YES.

I'M GATHERING THE CREW.

AND?

AS IN, YOU'RE A PART OF THE CREW SO GET YOUR SHIT AND LET'S GO HEAD OUT FOR BIG COSTUMED MISCHIEF?



I... I HAVE NO COSTUME.



JUST GO AS AN UPTIGHT CHRISTIAN.

YOU KNOW, THE USUAL.

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE, SMART MOUTH.



P.S.--WELL, I WAS ONCE AGAIN TOO QUICK TO ASSUME THE WORLD WOULD DISAPPOINT ME.



THOSE KIDS I MENTIONED BEFORE, THEY JUST INVITED ME OUT FOR HALLOWEEN!

THEY CONSIDER ME A PART OF THEIR "CREW"!



I AM MAKING FRIENDS AFTER ALL.

IF I *WAS* ALLOWED TO TALK I'D BE ABLE TO TELL YOU THAT HANGING OUT WITH THOSE **GOONS** ISN'T GOING TO HELP YOU HERE.

BUT YOU'RE NOT, SO DON'T.



OKAY, AS PER QUAN'S REQUEST, TONIGHT'S CAMPAIGN WILL TAKE US OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD FOR REAL ADVENTURE.

QUESTION IS, **WHERE?**



I ALREADY TOLD YOU, WE'RE GOING TO JAPAN-TOWN.

I GOT CONNECTIONS AT A BAR I CAN GET US INTO WITH NO I.D.S.



I'M SORRY TO BE A WORRIER BUT... IF SAYA DISCOVERS THAT I'VE SNUCK OUT, SHE'LL BE CROSS...

I AM HER PLEDGE.



C'MON. WHO CARES WHAT SHE THINKS? SHE'S A TOTAL WET BLANKET.

BECAUSE SHE ISN'T INTO YOU.

NO. NOT JUST THAT. **FUCK SAYA.**

THAT'S THE PROBLEM: YOU **CAN'T.**



BUT, IF, UH, IF YOU GUYS ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE...

I'D BE DOWN.

YOU KNOW.



YEAH. SURE, TOSAHWI.

GNARLY.

I'VE WANTED TO GO OUT PAST JAPANTOWN A BIT TO THE RICHMOND DISTRICT-- THEY FILMED SOME GREAT STUFF FROM *POWELL II FUTURE PRIMITIVE* THERE.



THERE'S THIS SCENE WHERE TOMMY GUERRERO BOMBS A HILL. WHEN I WAS A KID IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

GOT ME INTO STREET SKATING.

I'M **SUPER** STOKED TO GO HIT IT AND...



...GUYS?



THAT WAS
MEAN.

IT'S HIS
OWN FAULT.
THAT CAT IS
TOO MUCH.

NEGATIVE
PEOPLE, THEY
INFECT THE
GROUP, WORK
AGAINST THE
CHANCES FOR
FUN.

PESSIMISTIC
VIEWS OF THE
FUTURE HAVE
BEEN SHOWN TO
HELP PEOPLE TO
BE PREPARED...

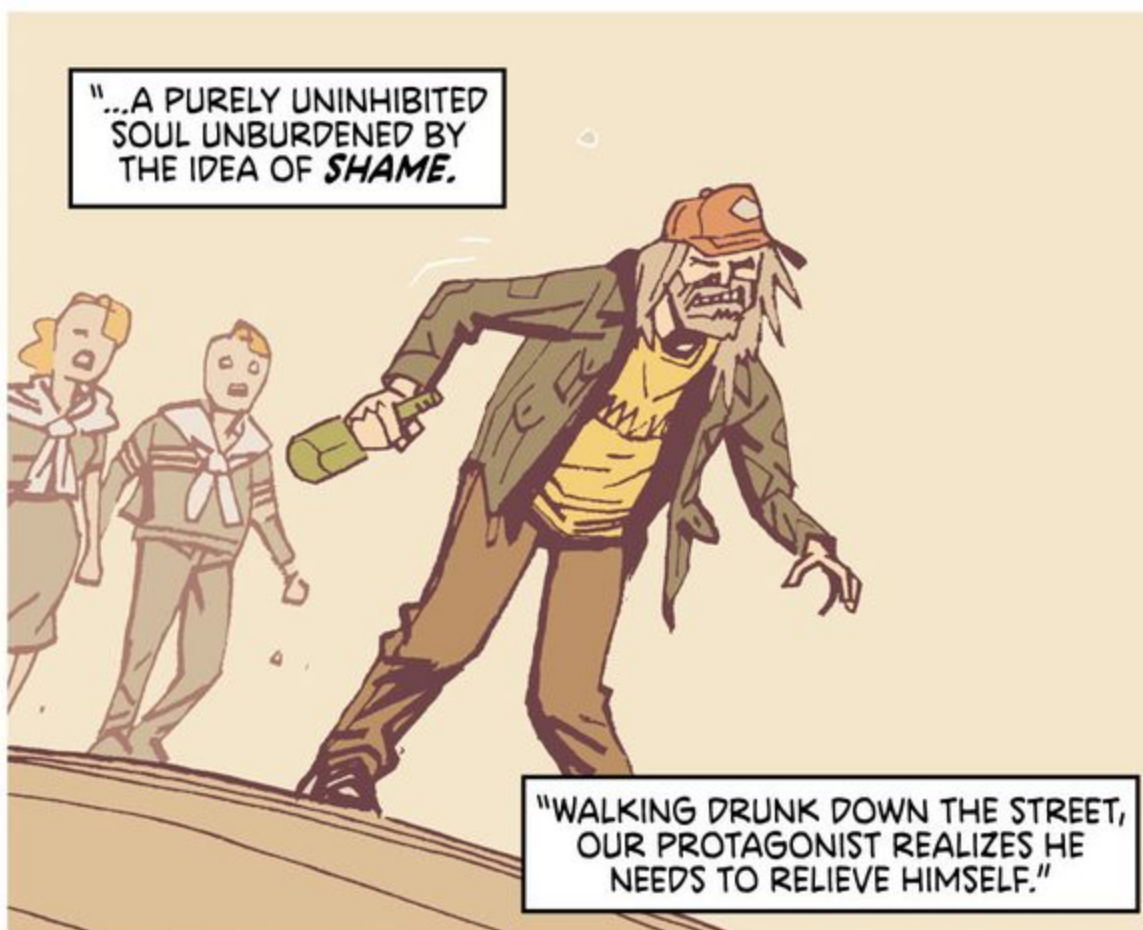


...FOR THINGS
THOSE WEARING
ROSE-COLORED
GLASSES ARE
NOT.

I GET IT.
EVERYTHING IS
IN HOW YOU
LOOK AT IT.



SOME MIGHT SEE THIS AS
JUST A **GIN BOTTLE**
STUCK IN **POO**, BUT I
SEE THE FEARLESS ART
OF A **GENIUS...**



"...A PURELY UNINHIBITED
SOUL UNBURDENED BY
THE IDEA OF **SHAME.**

"WALKING DRUNK DOWN THE STREET,
OUR PROTAGONIST REALIZES HE
NEEDS TO RELIEVE HIMSELF."



"SO HE JUST **DOES**--ON
THE STREET--IN **PUBLIC.**

"JOYFULLY UNSHACKLED
BY THE IMAGINARY
DICTATES OF HUMAN
SOCIETY."



"AND WHEN HE'S
DONE, DOES HE
RUN?"

"**NO.** HE TURNS AND
PLANTS HIS EMPTY BOTTLE
OF GIN IN HIS LEAVINGS
LIKE A BRAVE MOUNTAIN
CLIMBER'S FLAG.

"A PERFECTLY
UNBOUND
SPIRIT LIVING IN
THE **MOMENT.**"



"A SHADOW HERO FINDING WILD FUN IN THE MOST MUNDANE
TASKS WHILE THE REST OF US FRET AWAY EVERY HOUR.

"RICH IN WAYS WE WILL
NEVER UNDERSTAND.

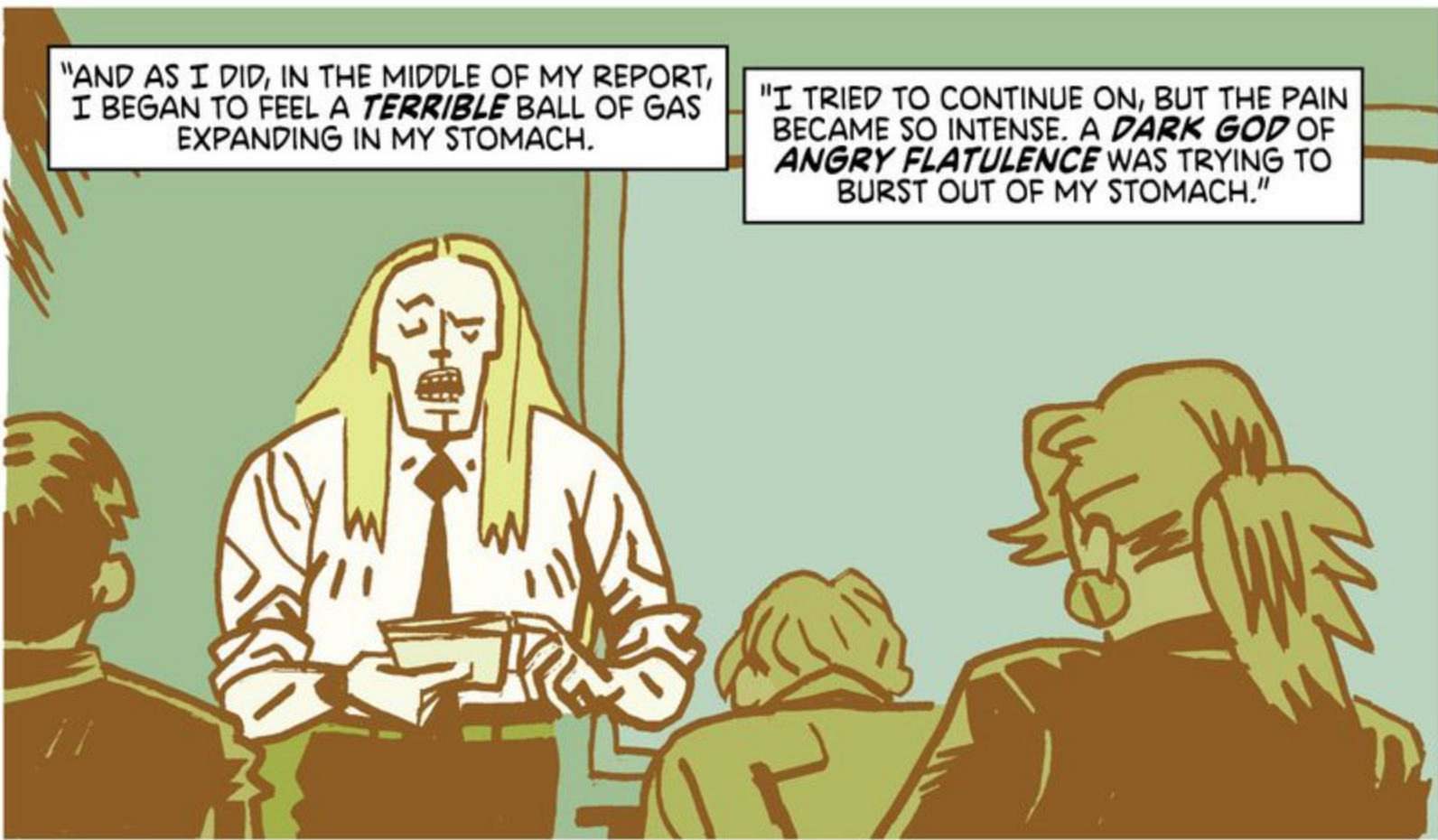
"A TRULY
GREAT
AMERICAN."





WE WERE IN ANTISOCIAL STUDIES WHEN IT CAUGHT UP WITH ME.

MR. PERPARIA HAD ASKED ME TO PREPARE A REPORT DESCRIBING MY LIFE IN EASTERN GERMANY TO THE REST OF THE CLASS...



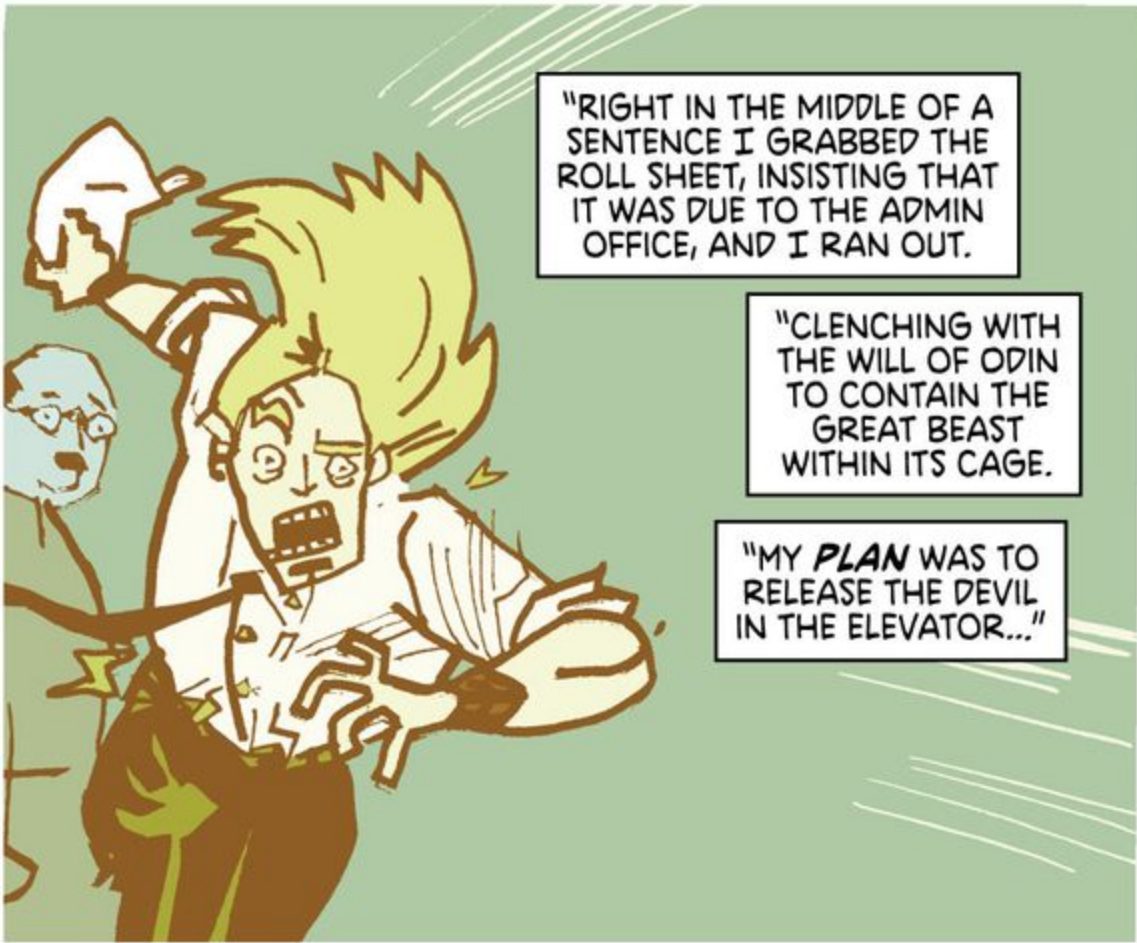
"AND AS I DID, IN THE MIDDLE OF MY REPORT, I BEGAN TO FEEL A **TERRIBLE** BALL OF GAS EXPANDING IN MY STOMACH.

"I TRIED TO CONTINUE ON, BUT THE PAIN BECAME SO INTENSE. A **DARK GOD OF ANGRY FLATULENCE** WAS TRYING TO BURST OUT OF MY STOMACH."



"I COULD TELL THAT IF I DID NOT **LEAVE**, AND **RIGHT** THEN, I WAS GOING TO RELEASE THE AGONY OF 1000 **BRATWURSTS** UPON THE CLASSROOM."

GRRRRUMMBLE



"RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A SENTENCE I GRABBED THE ROLL SHEET, INSISTING THAT IT WAS DUE TO THE ADMIN OFFICE, AND I RAN OUT.

"CLENCHING WITH THE WILL OF ODIN TO CONTAIN THE GREAT BEAST WITHIN ITS CAGE.

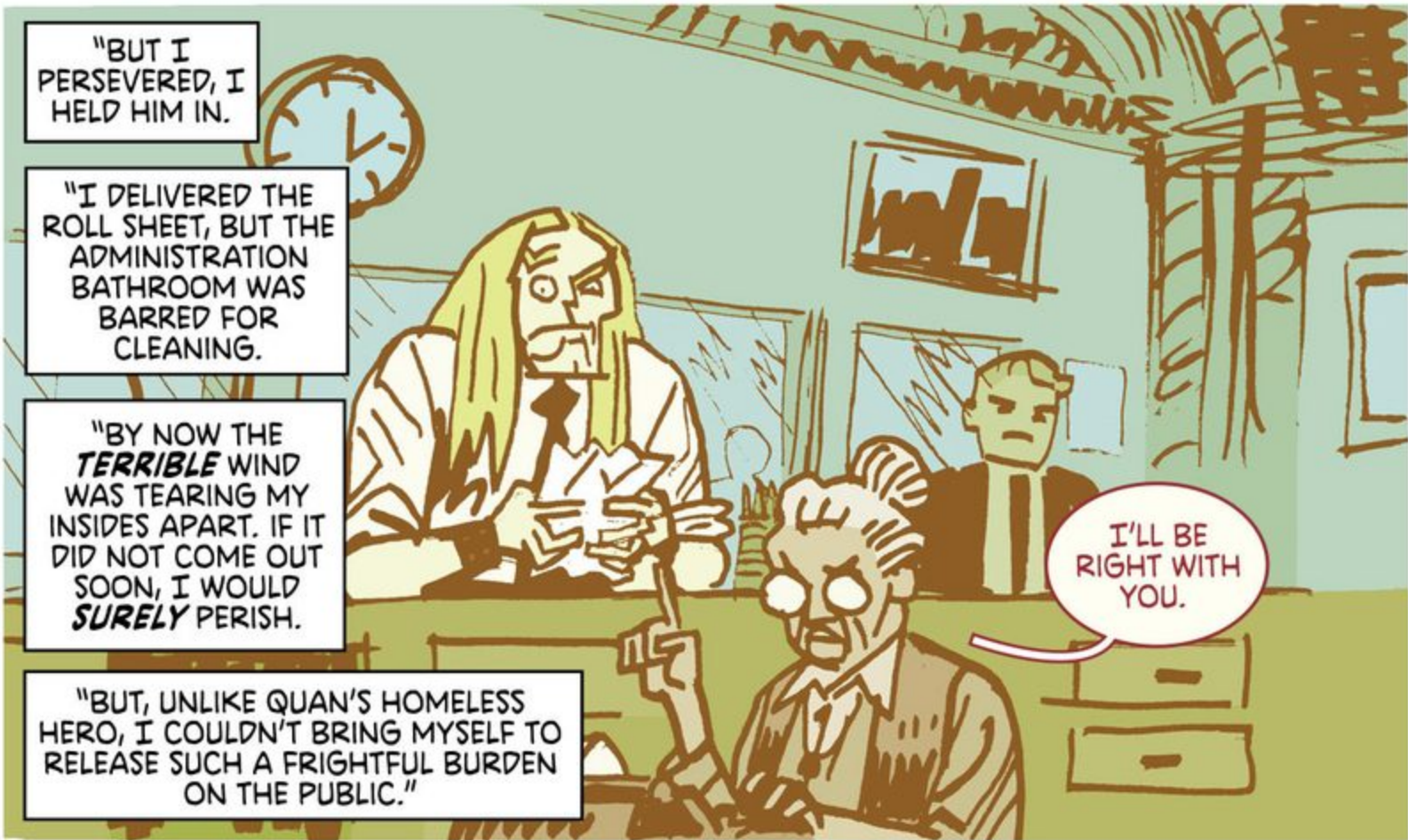
"MY **PLAN** WAS TO RELEASE THE DEVIL IN THE ELEVATOR..."



"...BUT AS SOON AS I GOT IN, IT FILLED WITH PEOPLE.

"I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WERE SO MANY. SHOULDN'T THEY BE IN CLASS?

"DID THE GREAT BEAST CALL THEM TO WITNESS HIS ARRIVAL?"



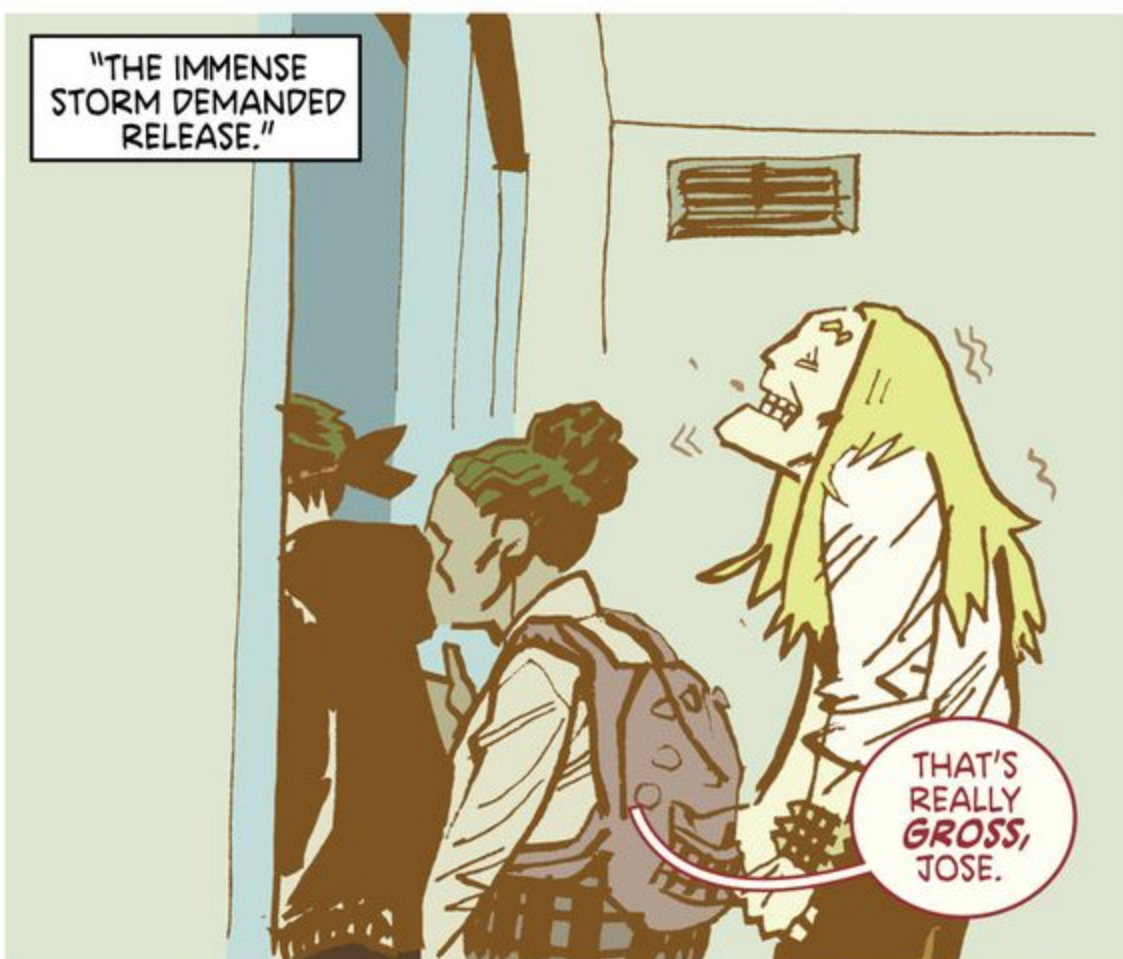
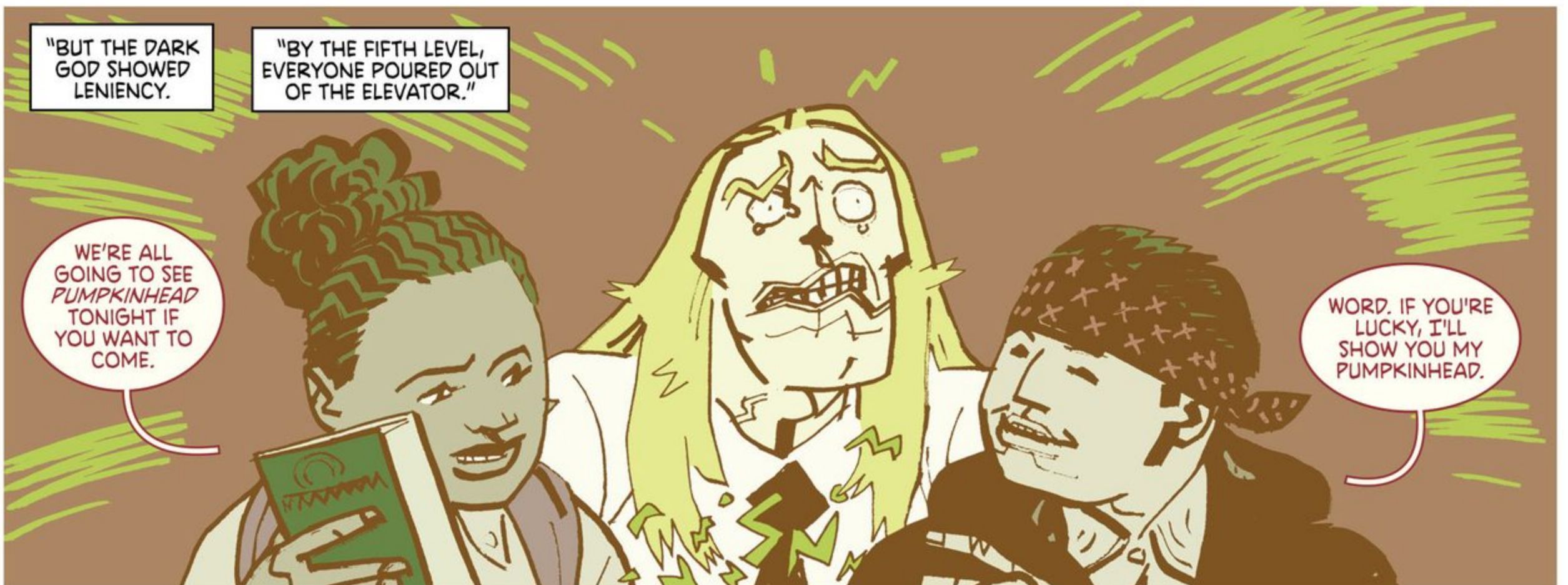
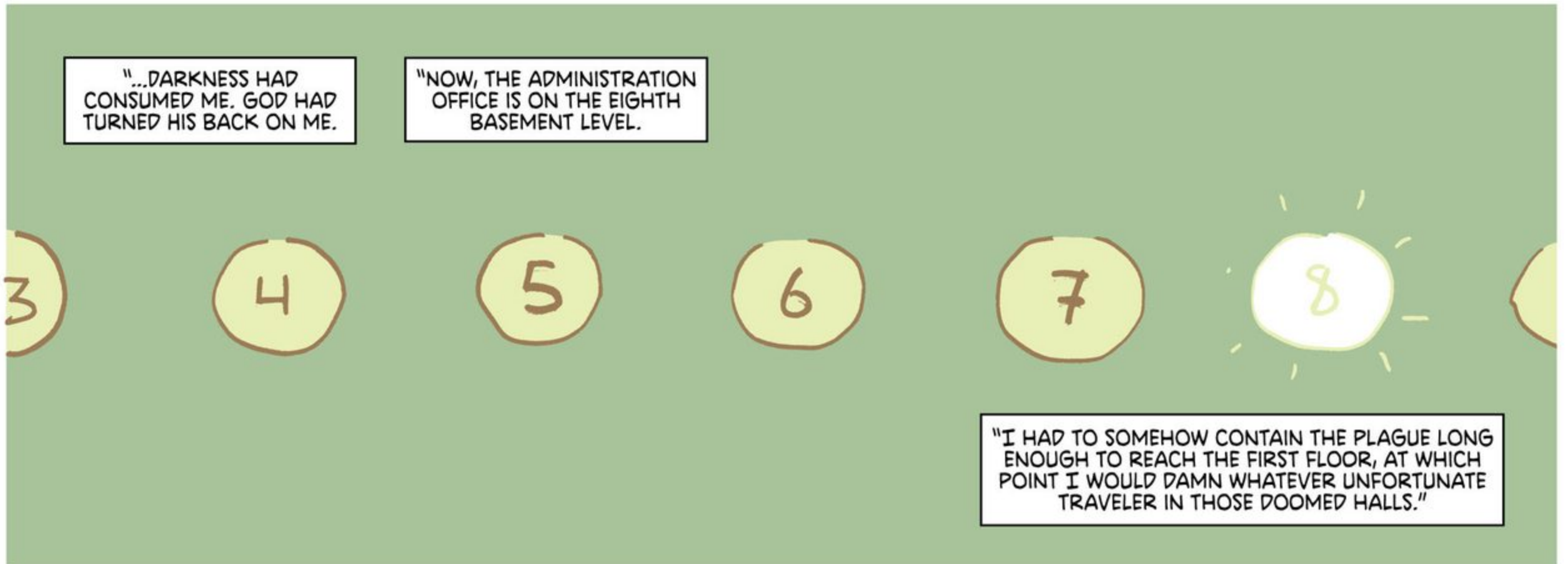
"BUT I PERSEVERED, I HELD HIM IN.

"I DELIVERED THE ROLL SHEET, BUT THE ADMINISTRATION BATHROOM WAS BARRED FOR CLEANING.

"BY NOW THE **TERRIBLE** WIND WAS TEARING MY INSIDES APART. IF IT DID NOT COME OUT SOON, I WOULD **SURELY** PERISH.

"BUT, UNLIKE QUAN'S HOMELESS HERO, I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO RELEASE SUCH A FRIGHTFUL BURDEN ON THE PUBLIC."

I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU.



"I PLANTED MY FEET WIDE.

"HELD MY KNEES FOR LEVERAGE
SO THAT THE GUST WOULD NOT
THRUST ME FORWARD.

"AND I OPENED MYSELF."



"A HUNDRED DYING
ELEPHANTS BELLOWED
IN GRIEF."

"THE GROTESQUE SOUND
GREW IN TENOR..."

"THE GHOSTS OF MY SADNESS
SUNG OF THEIR ORDEAL..."



"...AND WERE **FINALLY**
SILENCED, LEAVING ONLY
A THICK MEMORY
HANGING IN THE AIR.

"YOU CANNOT KNOW THE RELIEF
I FELT UPON PASSING THIS GAS.
I WAS SO DELIGHTED TO BE
FREE, TO HAVE SURVIVED.

"BUT THERE WAS AN
EVENTUALITY I HAD
NOT CONSIDERED--"

-DING-

"THE LEVEL 2 LIGHT
ILLUMINATED."



"SOME UNSUSPECTING SOUL WOULD
SOON JOIN ME IN THE FETID ELEVATOR
AND DRAW WHAT WOULD CERTAINLY
BE THEIR FINAL BREATH.

"HOWEVER, WHOEVER WAS
ENTERING THE ELEVATOR
WAS GETTING IN TO GO UP
ONE MEASLY FLOOR.

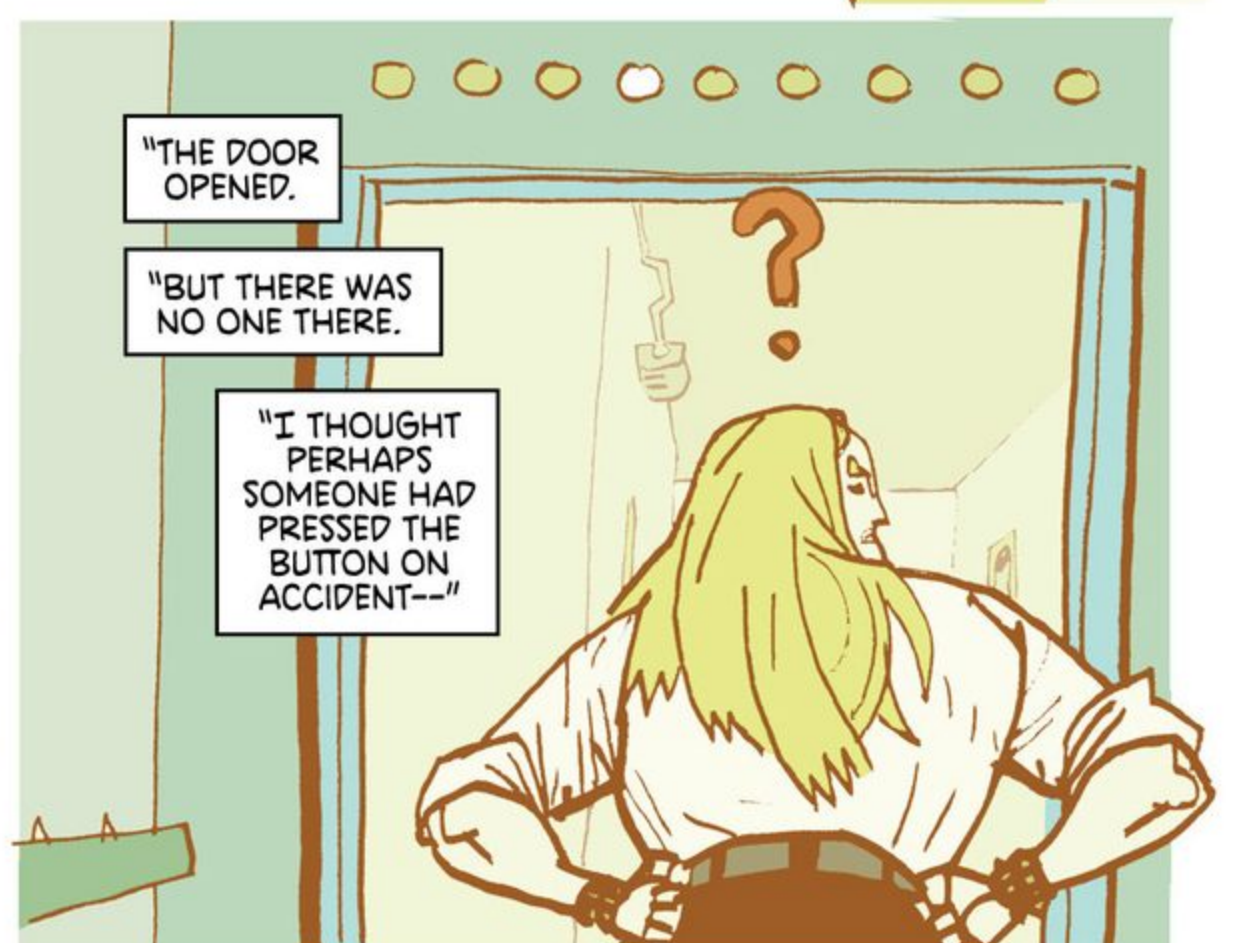
"A PERSON SO
LAZY SURELY
DESERVED
THE GREAT
CURSE THEY
WERE GOING
TO WALK
INTO."



"THE DOOR
OPENED.

"BUT THERE WAS
NO ONE THERE.

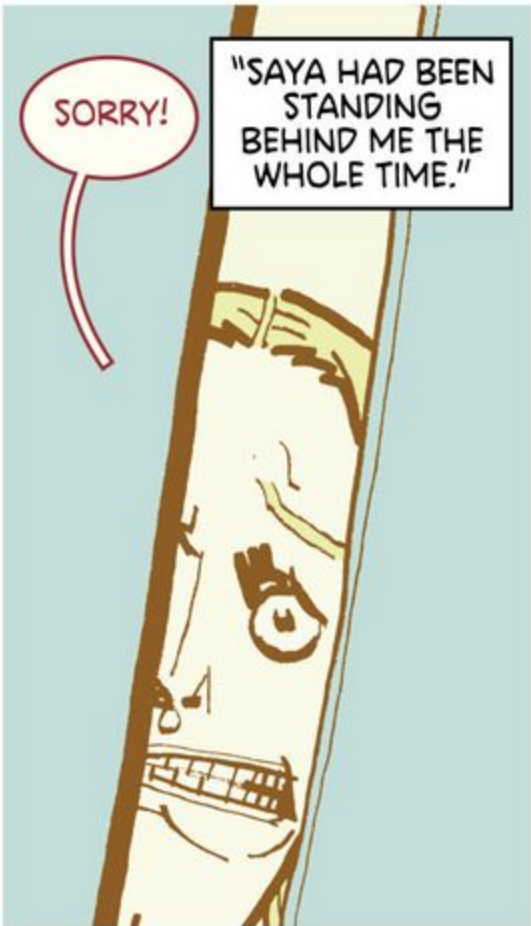
"I THOUGHT
PERHAPS
SOMEONE HAD
PRESSED THE
BUTTON ON
ACCIDENT--"





"--WHEN SHE CAME RUSHING OUT."

JESUS.
CHRIST.



SORRY!

"SAYA HAD BEEN STANDING BEHIND ME THE WHOLE TIME."



HAHAHA--
YOU-YOU--

YOU
FARTED ON
SAYA?!

HAHAHA!



THOSE STEALTHY NINJA SKILLS OF HERS BACKFIRED FOR *SURE*.

SHE PROBABLY STILL SMELLS OF MY SHAME.



SHE DOESN'T.



BUT SOMETHING AROUND HERE STINKS.



WHOSE
IDIOT IDEA
WAS IT TO
COME
HERE?

YOU HAVE
ANY IDEA
WHERE
YOU ARE?

HOW
DANGEROUS
THIS PLACE IS?



WE ONLY
MEANT TO
HAVE A LITTLE
FUN.

WE DIDN'T
INTEND TO
CAUSE
TROUBLE---



BULLSHIT.

I INTENDED
NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE.

HOW THE
HELL DID
YOU EVEN
FIND US?



YOU SHITHEADS
TOLD TOSAHWI
WHERE YOU WERE
GOING BEFORE
YOU *DITCHED*
HIM.

GET UP.

WE'RE
LEAVING.



YOU'RE NOT
THE FUCKING
DUNGEON
MASTER OF
ME!

THIS IS OUR
CAMPAIGN FOR
FUN AND
ADVENTURE,
AND YOU DON'T
GET TO FUCK
IT UP.



SAYA...

IT'S FUNNY
WHAT A DICKHEAD
YOU BECOME WHEN
YOU KNOW A GIRL'S
GOT NO INTEREST
IN SLEEPING
WITH YOU.

STAY. GET
YOURSELF IN
ALL THE
TROUBLE YOU
WANT.

ZENZELE IS *MY*
PLEDGE, AND I'M
TAKING HER BACK
BEFORE YOU DRAG
HER DOWN WITH
YOU.

MIGHT
BE TOO
LATE.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE

Send comments and questions to
[WriteRemender@gmail.com!](mailto:WriteRemender@gmail.com)
Mark letters "OK to print".

Hi Rick, Wes, Jordan, Rus and Sebastian

I just wanted to tell you how much I'm enjoying the new arc of DEADLY CLASS. I will miss Marcus, Willie, Billy and the rest of the fallen, but I'm thoroughly enjoying learning about the new freshmen - their back-grounds, personalities, musical tastes and such. Considering how much of the punk rock music I love the most came out when I was in diapers, it's a thrill to be able to experience this unique story unfolding in new installments every month - the comic equivalent, I suppose, of hearing great music while the band is still together and cranking out hits.

DEADLY CLASS is among those Image Comics releases that make me feel ambivalent - on one hand, I want the entire world to know about how fantastic these books are, and on the other hand, I like the knowledge that they're not-so-hidden treasures that have only been discovered by people who are willing to put down their remote controls and look for art and stories that are far more engaging, lively and memorable than what's being doled out in desultory heaps on cable TV and in movie theaters (looking forward to the TV show, though - congrats!). In a cultural climate where music stores have largely faded from the American landscape, comic book shops are where I go nowadays for my regular doses of scrappy punk rock vitality. I'm currently working in Antarctica (yes, the really cold place with the penguins) until next year and thanks to the magic of digital comics, I don't have to wait a handful of agonizing months to keep up on the stories that I've become emotionally invested in. Thanks to all of you for providing much-needed entertainment in the coldest place on earth.

Sincerely,

Nick of Antarctica

I think we all have that instinct, Nick. There's something very intimate about a comic book or a band that you know is great and love, but hasn't hit a wide market. I think that intimacy makes it feel more like it's yours and allows you to have a deeper connection with it. I remember as a kid finding the Pixies' album SURFER ROSA and falling in love with it. It was a mix of everything I liked about punk and post-punk mixed up into something new, having both a sense of humor and a rugged set of rock and roll balls. I remember when they had a hit on MTV later and feeling betrayed in some way. Like the band was no longer mine and had been given to a lot of people who never would've found it through honest means by digging through magazines and record store bins. I

think it's a pretty common human reaction.

Dear Rick and team,

I just finished reading the newest issue of DEADLY CLASS, #23, and after reading the letters page, I can't help but write in. I rarely write in to comic creators. Not saying that to amplify the importance of this letter in any way, more just to highlight how much the letters page jarred me off my lazy ass. I won't say any names or dog on anyone for their opinion, but I do feel another perspective is needed here.

After I finished DEADLY CLASS issue 21, I had so many emotions coursing through my mind. Having the courage to kill off several of your main characters... I mean wow. Even though it hurt, I think Marcus death is the best thing to happen in DEADLY CLASS. The comic feels lighter somehow, like all the guilt and fucked up shit Marcus brought with him was finally at peace. All in all, just beautifully written my friend. Isn't it funny how we can call someone we've never met a friend and really mean it? Your writing is what's endeared me to you, but more than that it's your integrity. I have no doubt you could've made a helluva lot more money doing other things, you're clearly a gifted writer, and yet you continue to do creator owned stuff for regular Joe's like myself. You do stuff that YOU want to write, and I have the utmost respect for it.

When I saw, you are going to make a TV adaptation of DEADLY CLASS my honest to god reaction was something akin to joy. Joy for you, a guy who doesn't compromise and who slaved away for his dreams finally getting his due, and joy for all those people out there who will finally get to experience your story. You're the farthest thing in the world from a sellout. Your response to the letter that chastised ya'lls decision was incredibly mature and classy as well, of course, I'd expect nothing less. I hope the TV adaptation is a smash hit, but know this, even if it bombs or people curse you for it, you have thousands of fans that will always love your work and have the utmost respect for you as a writer and good human being, so fuck all the rest of that noise.

Alright, let me get down off my soap box now lol! Props to the whole team on your success and keep on keeping on.

Sincerely,

Taylor Cox

When I was a kid the TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES was still

a violent black-and-white comic book aping Frank Miller, and I really loved it. I remember reading that it was going to be turned into a cartoon and feeling excited to see all of those shadowy alleys and large-scale action scenes brought to life. When the cartoon came out it was aimed at kids and was obviously nothing like the comic book, and that really bummed me out. I remember reading in the back of one of the books an explanation that there could be various versions of the thing for different audiences. There could be a campy, lighthearted Batman show while the same time there could be a comic book like THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS.

Just because one version of that isn't for you doesn't make the other version wrong. But I still remember the frustration and not seeing it translated the way it had been envisioned, and I do understand the letter you are referring to. Everyone involved in the television show is doing their utmost to capture the spirit of the comic and simply improve it. A deeper unpacking of characters, that I don't have the real estate to do in the comic book without changing who those core characters are. If the thing comes together the way it looks like it will, I hope you and all our loyal readers will enjoy what comes out the other end.

Dear DEADLY CLASS Crew,

That hater noise is fury that signifies nothing. DEADLY CLASS is a fresh comic book, and I think a live action TV show is a great step. It's a diverse and interesting concept that I think can be fleshed out amazingly on the screen, and you guys should be honestly glad that something you made is that chill. And also I mean damn, comic books isn't printin' money. But you're doing what you love, and sometimes you have to do something like getting a TV show made so you can keep doing that. Some fans may not be happy about it, but I know what's real.

P.S. Yo, you guys, got me with straight killin' off every damn fool, goddamn that was some red wedding, Bryan Cranston in Godzilla, Bambi's mom level shit. Goddamn. But keep it up tho!

Sincerely,

The Mithril Kid

Thanks for that. We have all taken risks to chase our dreams on these books, and without passionate readers like you we'd fail utterly.

Hi Rick,

After reading the letters page of issue 23, I felt the need to chime in. There was a letter written by a (former?) fan in which the subject of screen adaptations was addressed. Thank you for your candid and reasonable answer. I have noticed a trend of dismay as more and more comics are brought to the screen. I think as a lifelong comics collector there is a feeling of being part of a culture often misunderstood or at least casually dismissed, a culture we have defended and loved for so long that seeing it enter the mainstream or become accessible to an audience other than us cheapens our perceived place in it.

Comics has entered an age where television and movies are inundated with content we felt was somehow exclusively ours. As of late, some books feel as though they are merely treatments or practice screenplays, stepping stones for writers to showcase their abilities in a way that can be palpable to moviegoers.

I don't follow these books or their authors.

However, there are storytellers such as yourself, Matt Fraction, Ed Brubaker, Jason Aaron (to namedrop a few of my favorites) whose talent should be shared.

On any given week there are a dozen or more books in my pull, it becomes difficult to give each book the attention they demand. Sometimes I plow through my reading just to avoid an unmanageable backlog. I am grateful that there are well-made shows that pay respectful homage to books I have never read (Preacher) quit reading (Walking Dead) or even those I currently read (Outcast). I hope that these shows reach an audience who may not have the time or desire to read through the printed series. All the better if writers I adore can make a bit of scratch.

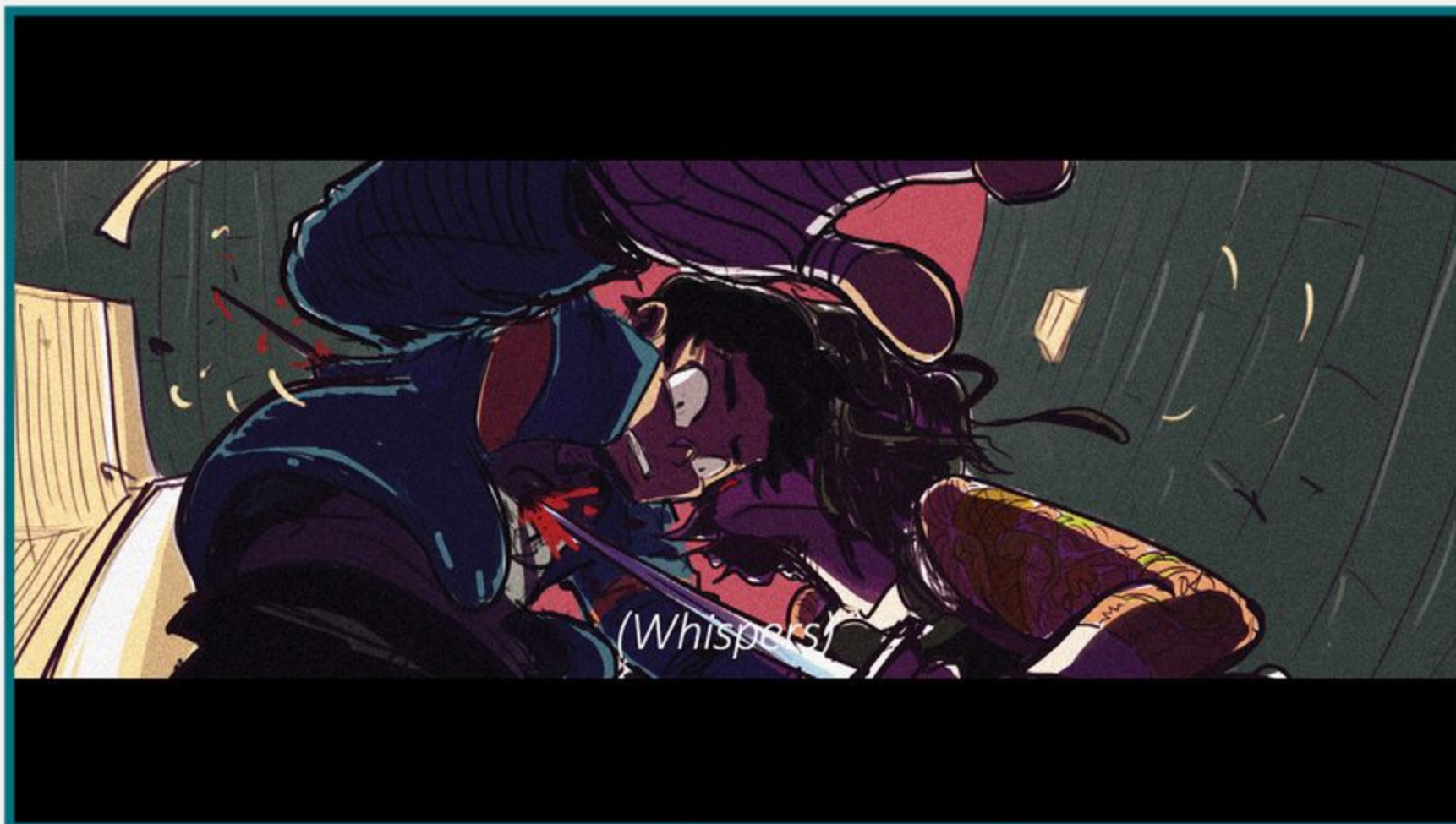
I know that film will prove to be much more lucrative than comic writing and the only fear I have is that we lose writers to that medium. I am intrigued by Deadly Class the TV show, although I feel that an animated series could be a whole lot more fun. Thanks for your work, I look forward to reading (and watching) whatever you do next, and after that too.

Joe R.

Denver, CO

I completely understand where you're coming from. Honestly, the decision to see this developed as a TV show isn't merely a financial one. We really do want to see a snapshot of the era and the authentic teenage experience dipped

FAN ART



BRYAN ARFIANDY
@BRYANARFIANDY

in our strange world brought to life. It's creatively very exciting to imagine what could be done, and as I work on the pilot episode and dig into the development I only get more and more excited at the possibilities. We never set out to make comic books as pitches for film or television. That's the honest truth. When I developed DEADLY CLASS with Wes, I was certain it had no possible chance of being developed elsewhere. I thought it was too strange. We develop these books out of a desire to make a great comic, something that we can put all our heart and energy into and feel proud of, to feel it reflect who we are and the kind of stories we want to tell. But as it turns out, DEADLY CLASS (and a number of my other creator-owned works) has grabbed the attention of people in television and film nonetheless. Now the job is to try to make sure they are translated with the same artistic intention without any of it being turned into vanilla ice cream shake simply to be palatable to a wider audience removing any real flavor. With the wonderful people involved in all these projects, I think we can achieve that.

Hi, Rick!

Just want to let you and Wes know that this scene is too good! So, sudden that it made me skip my sleep. :)"D

Can't wait to read the new issues!

Many thanks for creating this insanely entertaining comic!

Bryan

Wes and I were really blown away by how gorgeous this piece is. What a terrific shot. A re-creation but taken from a new vantage that offers a new emotional level. Thanks for taking the time to do it and for writing in.

See you in 30 days for a big twist. Then in 60 days for an even bigger one. Rick

TRANSMISSIONS FROM A BASEMENT

Hello, dear readers! It's your faithful comic editor, sending signs of life from the basement! As another year lurches towards its end, we wanted to give you a run-down of all the great comics you can look forward to in the waning days of 2016, and some of the really cool stuff we have planned for 2017. Ready? Here we go!

BLACK SCIENCE

Rick, Matteo, Moreno and Rus are working double time to cut down on the wait between story arcs, and we're gonna do our best to make BLACK SCIENCE a true monthly title! Hot on the heels of our landmark 25th issue, we return in December with a whole new adventure! With Grant McKay imprisoned, the Dimensionauts disbanded and the Pillar in the hands of the terrifying Mr. Block, it's up to Grant's daughter Pia to step up and become the hero her father never could be.

And if you'd like to take home a piece of pulp sci-fi splendor, ask your retailer to order you one of the exclusive BLACK SCIENCE sculptures! They're limited to 500, so hop to it!

DEADLY CLASS

Over at Kings Dominion School for the Deadly Arts, our deadly little Saya kicks off sophomore year by chaperoning a fresh bunch of students. But Saya's still being haunted some ghosts from her past, quite a few of which she MADE dead in the first place.

The current arc runs through issue #26 in January. Just like BLACK SCIENCE, Rick, Wes, Jordan and Rus are working overtime to cut down on gaps between arcs, and we should be back on the stands in March 2017. So, expect more teen assassins, more '80s pop music jams, more pitch-black angst and more DEADLY CLASS in 2017!

SEVEN TO ETERNITY

The smash-hit fantasy series is wrapping its first chapter with issue #4 this December. We're gonna need to take a little break before returning with Chapter 2 in April 2017. This book requires a lot of love and a lot of time to get it just right. But worry not! We'll have the first collection out in February 2017, at the low cost of only \$10! And if you want to see Jerome Opeña's beautiful inks giant-sized, don't miss our SEVEN TO ETERNITY ARTIST'S PROOF EDITION, collecting issues #1-2 in glorious 11x17, out in March!

LOW

Things have been a bit quiet on the LOW front, but we're so happy to announce that the series will be returning in March 2017. Look forward to more great art by Greg Tocchini and Dave McCaig, and more bittersweet sci-fi tragedy, as Rick tells a new chapter of the Caine family's final days on a dying earth.

TOKYO GHOST

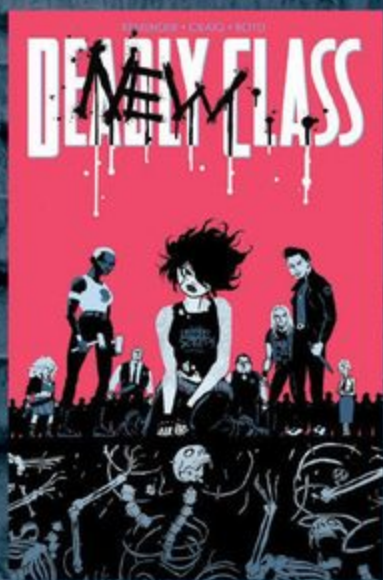
And finally, in April 2017 you can relive the technoir love story of Led Dent and Debbie Decay with the TOKYO GHOST COMPLETE EDITION hardcover, which collects all 10 issues of Rick, Sean Murphy and Matt Hollingsworth's cyberpunk samurai glory, covers, variants, sketches, concepts, designs, color studies and original script in one complete package.

To all our readers, we wish a great Thanksgiving, peaceful holidays and a great start into the new year!

Comics await!
SG



BLACK SCIENCE
ISSUE #26



DEADLY CLASS
ISSUE #22



SEVEN TO ETERNITY
#4



LOW
ISSUE #16



TOKYO GHOST
HARDCOVER

ALSO AVAILABLE BY

RICK REMENDER



BLACK SCIENCE

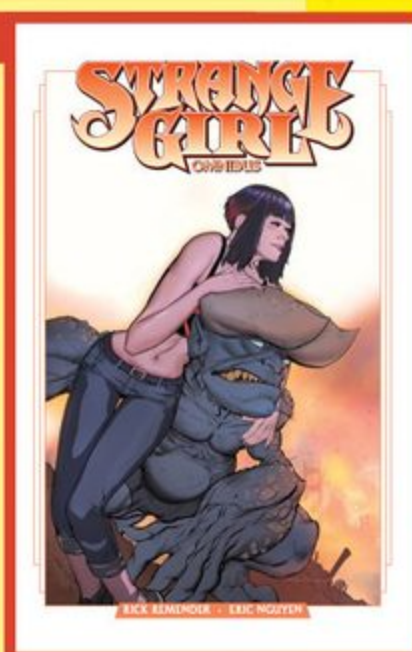
ARTIST: MATTEO SCALERA

In trade paperback and hardcover
Black Science, Vol. 1–5, \$9.99 and up
*Black Science Premier Edition:
The Beginners' Guide to Entropy*, \$49.99

STRANGE GIRL

ARTIST: ERIC NGUYEN

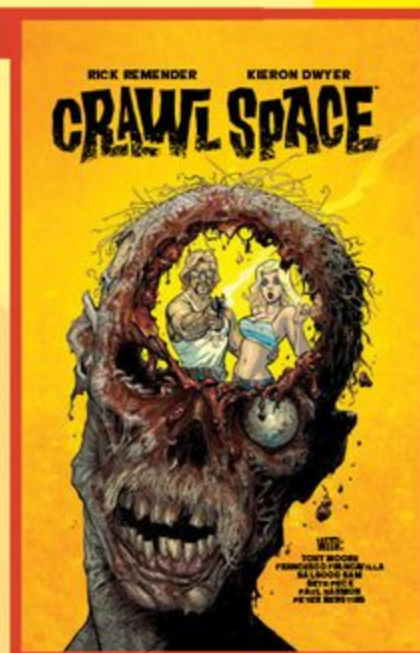
In trade paperback
The Strange Girl Omnibus, \$25.99



CRAWL SPACE

ARTIST: KIERON DWYER

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LOW

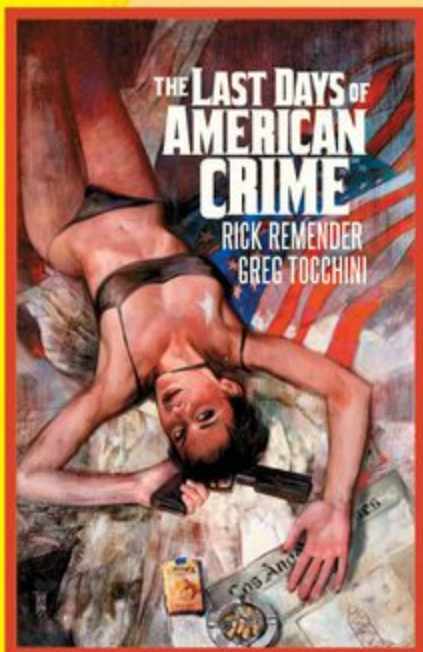
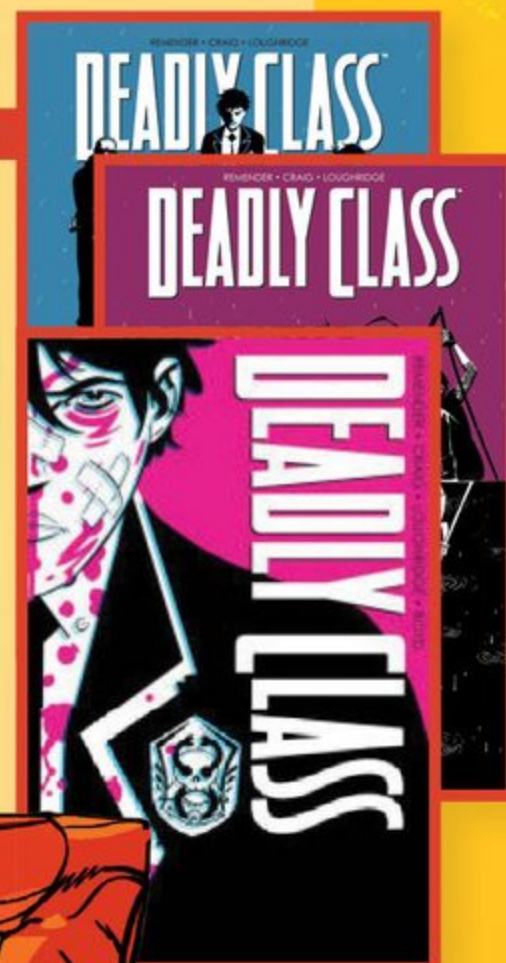
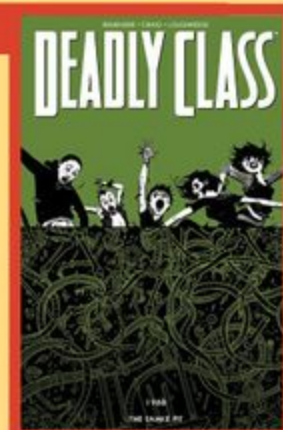
ARTIST: GREG TOCCHINI

In trade paperback
Low, Vol. 1 & 2, \$9.99 and up

DEADLY CLASS

ARTIST: WES CRAIG

In trade paperback and oversized hardcover
Deadly Class, Vol. 1–3, \$9.99 and up
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ARTIST: SEAN MURPHY

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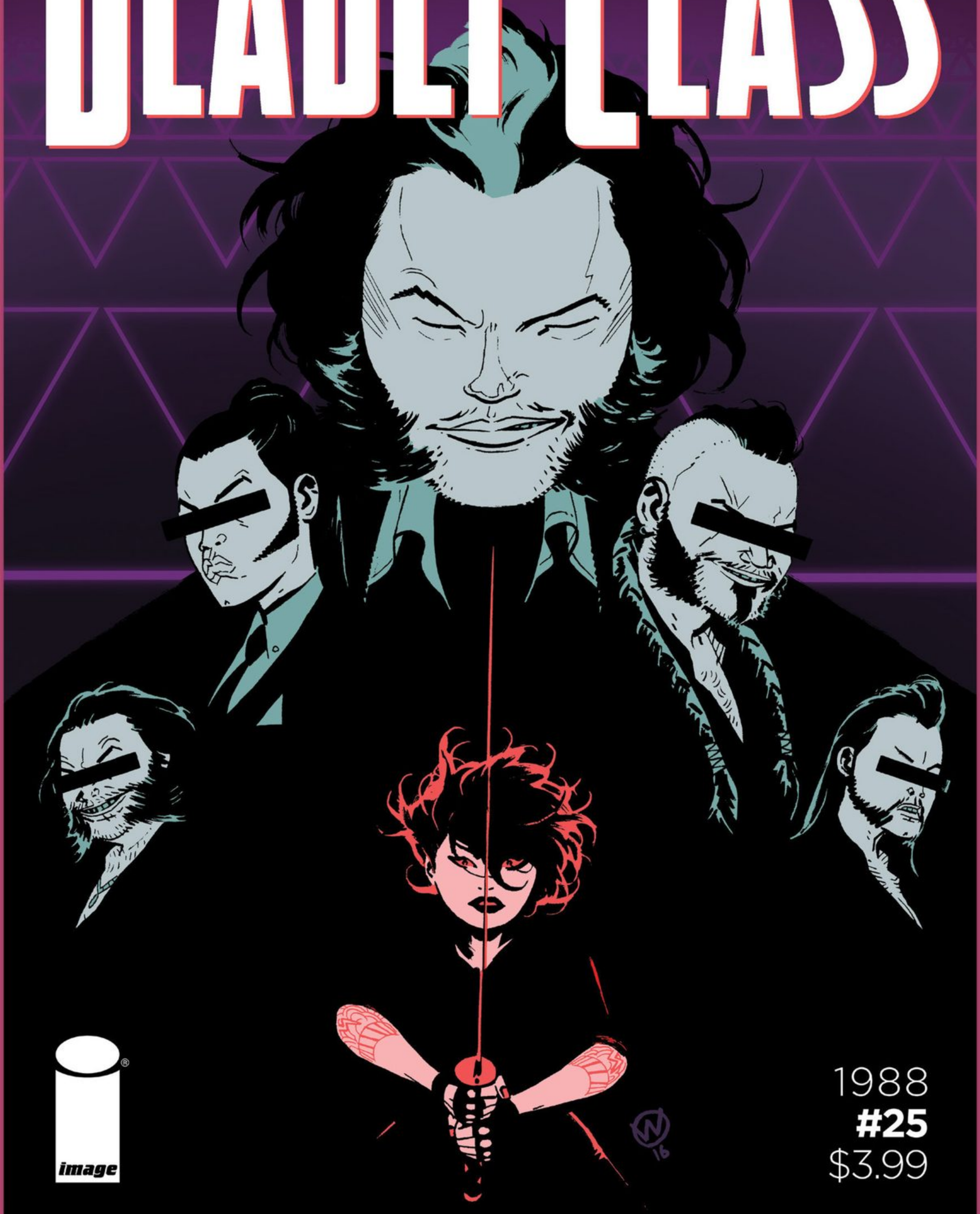
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NEXT ISSUE

REMENDER • CRAIG • BOYD

DEADLY CLASS



1988
#25
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